

made a truly significant impact throughout the minority business community. As a board member of the Atlanta Mortgage Consortium, he initiated efforts to make affordable housing accessible to low-income citizens. He also served as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the city of Atlanta Main Street-Auburn Avenue Project.

Included among his many achievements, are designing and implementing programs, procedures and practices to ensure compliance with regulations of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA); creating a CRA training module in conjunction with the American Banking Association; developing a number of commercial lending programs for small businesses; developing a CRA procedure manual; and authoring a column for "Money Matters" magazine. Mr. Springs is recognized as a leading authority on banking information throughout the Carolinas.

Mr. Springs embarked upon his professional career in 1974 as a Field Representative of the Labor Education Advancement Program of the Columbia Urban League in South Carolina. Two years later he became Executive Director of the Greenville Urban League where he remained with the Greenville Urban League for seven years. He later became Assistant Vice President of Community Relations for Southern Bank & Trust in Greenville. Mr. Springs would further advance his career by accepting a similar position with First Union National Bank of South Carolina in 1985.

Serving as a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, he lead the search to obtain the association's current national president, Kwisei Mfume. Mr. Springs professional affiliations and board appointments, past and present, are reflective of his outstanding service to various communities and include: Channel WTVI Board of Directors which oversees the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority; Charlotte Auditorium-Coliseum Convention Authority Board of Directors; Presidential Administrative Appointee to the US Department of the Treasury Bank Secrecy Advisory Group; Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission during my tenure as Commissioner; Chairman, NAACP Special Contribution Fund Board of Trustees, Past President, Founder and Board Member of the Charlotte Chapter of 100 Black Men, Inc.; Board Member of Central Carolina Urban League; National Alliance of Business Southeast Regional Board; Business Policy Review Council; Board of Directors, Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council Inc.; Past President, Voorhees College National Alumni Association; member, National Urban Bankers Association; Southern Region Board of Directors, Boy Scouts of America; Barber-Scotia College Board of Visitors; Johnson C. Smith University Board of Visitors; Elizabeth City State University Board of Trustees; Florida Memorial College Board of Directors; South Carolina State University Foundations Board of Directors; and Spirit Square, Charlotte, NC, Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Leonard F. Springs II, a personal friend and former employer, for his contributions to the business community, involvements in community revitalization, and overall public service. I sincerely thank Mr. Springs for the

dedicated service he has provided to the citizens of South Carolina and the noteworthy contributions he has made to minority business development throughout the nation. I congratulate him on his recognition by the South Carolina Conference of Branches of the NAACP and wish him good luck and God-speed in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE TONY MARTINEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I rise to honor Tony Martinez, former constituent from Colton, California who passed away on October 4, 2001. I cannot begin to express how saddened I am by the passing of my friend Tony Martinez. All men die, but not all men really live; we can honestly say that Tony lived. He was a model citizen, community leader, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and an extraordinary man.

Tony Martinez was born in Colton but lived in Redlands for most of his life. Tony was a remarkable example of humanity. He left high school at sixteen to start his own trucking company, and until the day he was drafted to fight in World War II, he hauled fertilizer, fruits, and vegetables from Mexicali to Los Angeles. When Tony returned from the war he moved to East Los Angeles, where he had his first taste of politics.

The California Community Service Organization was in its infancy and Ed Roybal, later to become Congressman and the father of Californian Latino politics, needed good men and women to help fight for Latino civil rights. Tony Martinez jumped headfirst and worked alongside the likes of Ed Roybal and Cesar Chavez to improve the lot in life of the average Latino. In the words of Congressman Ed Roybal, "Tony is a man of great integrity . . . active in community affairs." Tony and Ed knew each other for over forty years and held each other in the highest esteem.

Tony Martinez moved to Redlands in 1952 and since then became a fixture of the community. He worked hard every day to provide to his family and to improve his community. In 1973 he helped save the local Head Start program and soon after dedicated himself to the building of a community senior center. Tony was unyielding and unwavering in his dedication to this dream and his community. Tomorrow, the Redlands Community Center/Senior Nutrition Center will celebrate Tony's life to thank him for his selfless dedication. Although he was defeated three times for Redlands City Council, he never lost his faith in the community or the democratic process. In fact, he was one of the leading voices in a successful ballot measure to create city council wards, after the city council voted to eliminate them.

Thanksgiving is a time of the year for family unity and to thank the blessings God has given us. Predictably, Tony had his own way to thank God for all his blessings; his daughter Anita remembers, "I was seven years old and saw my dad dressed as Santa Claus taking

pictures with the local kids and then he would make us all race over to the community center to hand out turkeys to poor families." If Tony was not busy showing the kids at the Boys and Girls Club to box, he was busy with his home-operated charity to fight poverty and hunger—Su Casa de Amistad. Not a single day was ever wasted. Tony used to say, "anyone staying in front of the TV drinking beer is not going to last on this world." Tony Martinez is proof that we can live life to the fullest until our last day. At the age of 82, until the day he died, he worked tirelessly for his community. We will all miss you.

Tony Martinez is survived by his wife Rosa Martinez, five children (Tony, Michael, Rebecca, Maria, and Anita), eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Tony is irreplaceable and we will not live one day without remembering this kind and gentle man.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNTY OF OCONTO

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honor Wisconsin's Oconto county one of the most naturally beautiful areas of our country. On November 4, the county will celebrate its 150th anniversary.

Oconto has a rich history of Menominee Indian, French and English settlers. The industry of Oconto through its early history changed from fur trading to lumber. In 1848, Wisconsin gained statehood, putting Oconto one step closer to formation. In 1850, census data showed that the region of Oconto held 415 residents. On November 4, 1851 the first election was held to found Oconto County, establishing the county seat in the small mill settlement of Oconto.

In the twentieth century, lumber companies were the largest businesses in the region producing more than 60 million board feet of lumber per year. This lumbering tradition exemplifies the hard working drive and dedication of the people of Oconto.

Through the years Oconto's business and commerce has increased due to the ingenuity and productivity of its citizens. From Oconto to Townsend, Lena to Lakewood, Gillett to Mountain and everywhere in between, we see those characteristics manifesting themselves in the people and progress in Oconto County. Today, educators, doctors, business owners, loggers, and state employees all make up a strong and vibrant Wisconsin community called Oconto.

On this sesquicentennial of the inception of Oconto County, I offer my congratulations to the county and its residents. Oconto is a true representation of our Wisconsin spirit and values in industry, business, and its people.